

What is claimed Is:

22627 1. A composition containing Asiasari Radix extracts for protecting brain cells and improving memory.

2. The composition of Claim 1 wherein content of the Asiasari Radix extracts ranges from 0.5 to 50 % by weight per total weight of the composition.

3. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the Asiasari Radix extracts are extracted with a lower alcohol containing between about 1 carbon atom and about 4 carbon atoms.

4. The composition of Claim 3 wherein the lower alcohol is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, acetone, chloroform, methylenechloride, ether, ethylacetate, and combinations thereof.

5. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises carriers, excipients and diluents.

6. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the composition is formulated as oral preparations.

7. The composition of Claim 6 wherein the oral preparations are powders, tablets, capsules, suspensions, syrups and aerosols.

8. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the composition is formulated as external applications.

9. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the composition is formulated as suppositories.

10. The composition of Claim 1 wherein the composition is formulated as sterile injections.

11. The composition of Claim 1, wherein said the Asiasari Radix extracts are obtained by the following sequential fractionation procedure:

extracts of Asiasari Radix obtained according to the method described in the claims 3 are solubilized in a methanol:

water mixed solvent, adjusted to pH 2-4 with acid and subjected to extraction with equal volume of chloroform; the chloroform insoluble fraction is then adjusted to pH 9-12 with NH₄OH and subjected to extraction with equal volume of a chloroform:methanol mixed solvent;

among these, the chloroform:

methanol insoluble fraction is further extracted and fractionated with methanol to obtain the Asiasari Radix extracts which are methanol soluble.

12. A composition for improving memory containing a chloroform fraction of Asiasari Radix extracts obtained by the following sequential fractionation procedure: Asiasari Radix is subjected to extraction with a lower alcohol having between 1 carbon atom and 4 carbon atoms such as methanol or ethanol, or organic solvent such as acetone, chloroform, methylene chloride, ether, or ethylacetate; the resulting Asiasari Radix extracts are solubilized in a methanol:water mixed solvent, adjusted to pH 2-4 with acid and subjected to extraction with equal volume of chloroform to obtain the chloroform fraction of Asiasari Radix extracts.

13. The composition for improving memory of Claim 12, wherein said the content of the fraction ranges from 0.5 to 50 % by weight per total weight of the composition.

14. The composition for improving memory of Claim 12, wherein said the composition contains carriers, excipients and diluents additionally.

15. The composition for improving memory of Claim 12, wherein said the composition is formulated as oral preparations containing powders, tablets, capsules, suspensions, syrups and aerosols, external applications, suppositories and sterile injections.

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